

IP-022824  
Appl. No. 10/632,383  
Amdt. dated May 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated November 4, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) In an open-topped ~~open-topped~~ container for the shipping and display of food items, wherein the container has ~~having~~ a bottom panel, opposing end walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing end score lines, opposing side walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing side score lines, ~~each of the opposing side~~  
5 ~~walls having~~ and opposing side flaps foldably attached to each of the opposing side walls along side flap score lines, wherein the side flaps are folded inward along the side flap score lines and attached ~~adhered~~ to an inner portion of a respective one ~~each side~~ of the opposing end walls, said side flaps at each end of the container being spaced from one another, and said side and end  
10 walls and bottom panel defining an interior space having length, width and height dimensions, the improvement comprising an inwardly offset central portion of each said end score line, said  
inwardly offset central portions being positioned ~~two opposing inwardly spaced score lines, each~~  
~~centrally positioned between the spaced apart side flaps adhered to the inner portions of each~~  
~~side of the~~ at the respective opposing end walls, said inwardly offset portions of the opposing  
15 end score lines resulting in the interior length dimension of the container being substantially the  
same at the central portion of the end walls as it is at the opposite sides of the end walls where  
the side flaps are attached ~~and inwardly from base portions of the opposing end score lines, such~~  
~~that a space within the container is optimized.~~

2. (currently amended) The container according to claim 1, wherein the ~~opposing~~  
inwardly offset ~~spaced~~ score lines each have angled side portions ~~edges~~ and a straight or linear  
central flat top edge portion, the straight central portion lying in generally the same plane as the  
side flaps, the flat top edge being in a horizontal plane, and wherein the side flaps are generally  
5 in the horizontal plane.

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3. (currently amended) The container according to claim 1, wherein the inwardly ~~offset spaced~~ score lines are lines is arcuate, wherein an innermost a top point of each the arcuate score line lies in generally the same plane s the side flaps is in a horizontal plane, and wherein ~~the side flaps are in the horizontal plane.~~

4. (currently amended) The container according to claim 1, wherein the opposing side flaps are attached ~~adhered~~ to the opposing end walls with an adhesive.

5. (currently amended) The container according to claim 1, wherein the opposing side flaps are attached ~~adhered~~ to the opposing end walls with staples.

6. (currently amended) The container according to claim 1, wherein the interior length dimension ~~space~~ within the container has a length between 10 and 18 inches, the interior width dimension ~~has~~ a width between 7 and 12 inches, and the height dimension ~~has~~ a height between 1 and 3 inches.

7. (currently amended) In a unitary blank having a plurality of intersecting score lines enclosing and defining a base panel, and further defining two opposing end panels foldably connected to the base panel along two opposing end score lines, two opposing side panels foldably connected to the base panel along two opposing side score lines, and two opposing side flaps on opposing sides of the opposing side panels, the improvement comprising inwardly offset central portions of the opposing end score lines, whereby the distance between the central portions of the end score lines at opposing ends of the blank is less than the distance between side portions of the end score lines ~~opposing inwardly spaced score lines, positioned inwardly from base portions of the opposing end score lines.~~

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8. (currently amended) The unitary blank according to claim 7, wherein the inwardly offset central portions of the opposing end spaced score lines are straight or linear and have angled side edges connecting them to the side portions of the end score lines and a flat top edge connected to a top point of the angled side edges, wherein a bottom point on the angled side edges are connected to the base line portions of the opposing end score lines.

5

9. (currently amended) The unitary blank according to claim 7, wherein the inwardly offset central portions of the end spaced score lines are arcuate, wherein a top point of the arcuate scores line are inwardly spaced from the base line portions of the opposing end score lines, and two opposing bottom points of the arcuate score lines are connected to the base line portions of the opposing score lines.

5

10. (original) The unitary blank according to claim 7, further comprising cut voids in the blank between the end panels and the side panels.

11. (currently amended) The unitary blank of claim 10, wherein the cut voids have angled bottom edges that cut diagonally across the corners of the base panel.

12. (currently amended) The unitary blank of claim 10, wherein the cut voids are narrow thin, U-shaped cut outs having a bottom point that touches an the edge of the base panel.

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13. (original) The unitary blank of claim 7, wherein the maximum length of the blank ranges from 20-40 inches, and the maximum width of the blank ranges from 15-35 inches.

14. (currently amended) An open topped container for shipping and display of food items, said container comprising: having

a bottom panel;

opposing end walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing end score lines;

5 opposing side walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing side score lines;

opposing side flaps foldably attached to the opposing side walls along side flap score lines, wherein the side flaps are folded inward along the side flap score lines and adhered to an inner portion of each side of the opposing end walls; and

10 said opposing end score lines have inwardly offset central portions ~~two opposing inwardly spaced score lines, each centrally positioned between the side flaps adhered to the inner portions of each side of the opposing end walls, and inwardly from base portions of the opposing end score lines.~~

15. (currently amended) A method for securely shipping a multiplicity of cans or bottles in an open topped corrugated tray, comprising the steps of:

erecting an open topped container having a bottom panel, opposing end walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing end score lines, opposing side walls foldably attached to the bottom panel along opposing side score lines, each of the opposing side walls having opposing side flaps foldably attached to the opposing side walls along side flap score lines, the side flaps adhered to an inner portion of each side of the opposing end walls, and ~~having opposing~~ inwardly offset central portions of said end ~~spaced score lines, that are each centrally positioned between the side flaps adhered to the inner portions of each side of the~~

10 opposing end walls, whereby the distance between the central portions of the opposing end walls

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is substantially the same as the distance between the side portions of the opposing end walls and inwardly from base portions of the opposing end score lines, and  
filling the open topped container with the multiplicity of cans or bottles.

16 15. (currently amended) A method for securely shipping a multiplicity of cans or bottles in an open topped corrugated tray having a bottom panel, opposing side walls, opposing end walls, and opposing side flaps on each side wall adhered to an adjacent inner surface of the end walls, comprising the steps of:

- 5       folding ~~an~~ opposing side walls upright along opposing side score lines at opposite sides of the foldably attached to a bottom panel;  
          folding ~~an~~ the opposing side flaps inwardly along opposing side flap score lines toward the bottom panel and attaching the side flaps foldably attached to the opposing side walls along an opposing side flap score lines toward the bottom panel;  
10       folding a first end wall upright along an end score line having ~~a centrally positioned an~~ inwardly offset central portion spaced score line;  
          folding a second end wall upright along an end score line having ~~a centrally positioned an~~ inwardly offset central portion spaced score line;  
          attaching adhering the side flaps to the adjacent inner surface an interior portion of the  
15       first and second end walls in a position flanking the ~~centrally positioned~~ inwardly offset central portion of the end spaced score lines; and  
          filling the open topped container with the multiplicity of cans or bottles.

17 16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the multiplicity of cans or bottles comprise are 24 cans or bottles in six rows of four.

18 17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the multiplicity of cans or bottles comprise are 12 cans or bottles in three rows of four.

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19 18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, further comprising the step of shrink wrapping the multiplicity of cans or bottles held in the open topped tray.

20 19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the inwardly offset central portions of the end centrally positioned inwardly spaced score lines each have angled side edges and a straight or linear innermost flat top edge, the linear innermost edge lying in substantially the same plane as the side flaps flat top edge being in a horizontal plane, and  
5 wherein the side flaps are in the horizontal plane.

21 20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the inwardly offset central portions of the end score lines opposing inwardly spaced score lines are arcuate, wherein an innermost point of the arcuate score lines lie in substantially the same plane as the side flaps a top point of the arcuate score line is in a horizontal plane, and wherein the end flaps  
5 are in the horizontal plane.

22 21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the opposing side flaps are attached ~~adhered~~ to the first and second end walls with an adhesive.

23 22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the opposing side flaps are attached ~~adhered~~ to the first and second end walls with staples.

24 23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 15, wherein the multiplicity of cans or bottles fit within a space within the container having a length between 10 and 18 inches, a width between 7 and 12 inches, and a height between 1 and 4 inches.